

Lockport Historic District
Illinois and Michigan Canal
Lockport, Illinois
Will County

IL-16-A

HAER
ILL,
99-LOCK,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

LOCKPORT HISTORIC DISTRICT
ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN CANAL
HAER IL-16-A

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Date: 1838-1848, altered 1872

Location: Parallel to the Des Plaines River, City of Lockport

Designed By: William Gooding, Chief Engineer

Owner: City of Lockport, Illinois

Significance: The Village of Lockport, Illinois was platted by the Commissioners for the I&M Canal in 1836 at which time land between 8th and 10th Streets and Commerce Street and the Canal was set aside as a Public Landing area. HAER IL-16-A pertains to the canal, landing, and structures related to the canal. The canal served as a major means of communication and transportation for areas southwest of Chicago throughout the second half of the nineteenth century. Primary goods moved along the canal included grain and flour, and limestone from the quarries in the Des Plaines River Valley. Other products included timber shipped in from the north, and agricultural products such as sugar and coffee from the south. Passenger service was also important in the canal's early years, until it was superceded by the Railroads in the late 1850's.

The canal's presence contributed to the growth of Lockport as a principal grain processing and commercial center. Water power to operate milling facilities and a paper factory was provided by a hydraulic basin situated on the west side of the canal in the vicinity of 13th Street. Commercial traffic on the canal decreased in the final decades of the nineteenth century, and ceased with the opening of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal in 1900. Researchers are referred to Appendix A of HAER IL-16, for more complete information.

Transmitted by: Monica E. Hawley, Historian, 1984

ADDENDUM TO
ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN CANAL
Lockport Historic District
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Will County
Illinois

HAER No. IL-16-A

HAER
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XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
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